1554

Swarthmore College Friends Historical Library

An EPISTLE By Way of
Encouragement to Friends,
To be frequent at *Week-Day Meetings.*

Dear and tender Friends,

WE having been often refreſht, in the living preſence of the Lord, in *Meetings*; and thoſe that have truly Hungred after Righteouſneſs, have there felt the *Bread* that comes from Heaven, plentifully Diſtributed; and many being thereby Nouriſhed up in the Eternal Life, it hath encouraged them to be frequent in *Meetings*; not only on firſt Days, but alſo on Week days, to wait upon the Lord in his Divine Gift, to be refreſh't again: For as the Sence of Gods Goodneſs is abode in, the Hunger will remain after the Childrens Bread, and an earneſtneſs of mind will be to get to the *Table of the Lord*, where our Souls have been Refreſht before; that we may enjoy the renewings of the Heavenly Life, and increaſe in it; wherein, as we are preſerved, we ſhall abide in the favour of God, and have a ſhare of his Bleſſings which he is beſtowing among the Sons of Men, whoſe Hearts are prepared and ſtand open, and expecting to receive from him.

10701

Therefore, *Friends*, let a Watchfulneſs be in the mind of every one, that this Worlds Cares and Concerns do not become as Briars and Thorns unto any, hindring their Growth in the Truth: For, *Friends*, theſe outward Goods the Lord hath beſtowed, ought rather to cauſe in our minds Thankfulneſs unto the Giver, and to walk in true fear, and lowlineſs of mind before him, and unto thoſe that ſo do, outward Riches, or any outward Bleſſing or Mercy that he beſtows, will not be an Occaſion, to neglect our Chriſtian Duty of Aſſembling our ſelves together, but ſo much the more as we have received from him, ſo much the more to be engaged to ſerve him, and draw near unto him, and wait upon him.

And thus your good Example in frequenting Meetings, may be an Inducement to others to frequent Friends Meetings alſo; whereas, if any looking into our Meetings, ſhould a thinneſs and ſlackneſs in Frien may they not think? that our ings are no more profitable than their own, and ſo not be drawn by our Example to be fervent in ſeeking after the Lord; let therefore the zeal and diligence of Friends in frequenting Meetings, ſhew forth the Benefit of our Meetings, and the refreſhment that may there be had; and it may prove a means to ſtir up them to conſider, that ſurely we do enjoy more in our Meetings, then they do in theirs, becauſe of our frequenting them ſo diligently.

And Friends, if any are in ſtreights and difficulties inwardly, whom have we to go unto? in comparison of our God, therefore not only in private but

advantage to your immortal Souls, then increaſe of outward Wealth, or indeed, then a bare formal ſitting in Meetings, only to hear the Experiences of others. For hereby you'l come to know Bread in your own Houſes, and Water in your Ciſterns, that you'l not need to ſay to others, give us of your Store. For through the Heavenly Gift that you have received will you be abundantly ſupplyed; and your Souls in the receiving, will have a Sacrifice of thanksgiving and Praiſe to Offer to our God, who is worthy thereof, for ever and evermore.

And you that are Maſters and Mi-
ſſes of Families, and Parents of
ldren, had need be Exemplary in
r Practice and care over thoſe of
r Families, That they ſeeing your
l and earneſtneſs, in Aſſembling
r ſelves together, to wait upon
Lord, may be drawn by your
mple alſo to be diligent in wait-
upon him, and ſo come to re-
re for themſelves of his Bleſſings
Mercies, and then, that they to-
her with you, may live Worthy of
Mercies, is the fervent Travail
Prayer of Your Friend,

Theodor Eccleston.

ar Meetings to begin.

[illegible] Lib. Lond

Holy-well-Lane, Shoreditch. 169

BX7614 .E28E6

FOR WHATSOEVER THINGS WERE WRITTEN AFORETIME WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING

Swarthmore Hall

FRIENDS HISTORICAL LIBRARY SWARTHMORE COLLEGE PENNSYLVANIA

E·H·NEW 1927

-10701-

ings are no more profitable than their own, and ſo not be drawn by our Example to be fervent in ſeeking after the Lord; let therefore the zeal and diligence of Friends in frequenting Meetings, ſhew forth the Benefit of our Meetings, and the refreſhment that may there be had; and it may prove a means to ſtir up them to conſider, that ſurely we do enjoy more in our Meetings, then they do in theirs, becauſe of our frequenting them ſo diligently.

And Friends, if any are in ſtreights and difficulties inwardly, whom have we to go unto? in compariſon of our God, therefore not only in private, but alſo in the aſſembly of the Lords People, ſpread your ſpiritual neceſſities before him, and wait upon him for a ſupply; and let the minds of none Wander, but (when you are ſo met) be ſtaid upon the Lord in his Heavenly Gift, to receive from him, and if any are not yet come to a ſtay to their minds, let ſuch be turned to the meaſure of the Spirit they have received, and (in faith) therein diligently reſiſt the enemy that would keep you unſetled, and as you abide faithfully Warring againſt him, in due time you'l know a Victory; and this will be of more advantage to your immortal Souls, then increaſe of outward Wealth, or indeed, then a bare formal ſitting in Meetings, only to hear the Experiences of others. For hereby you'l come to know Bread in your own Houſes, and Water in your Ciſterns, that you'l not need to ſay to others, give us of your Store. For through the Heavenly Gift that you have received will you be abundantly ſupplyed; and your Souls in the receiving, will have a Sacrifice of thankſgiving and Praiſe to Offer to our God, who is worthy thereof, for ever and evermore.

And you that are Maſters and Miſtreſſes of Families, and Parents of Children, had need be Exemplary in your Practice and care over thoſe of your Families, That they ſeeing your zeal and earneſtneſs, in Aſſembling your ſelves together, to wait upon the Lord, may be drawn by your Example alſo to be diligent in waiting upon him, and ſo come to receive for themſelves of his Bleſſings and Mercies, and then, that they together with you, may live Worthy of his Mercies, is the fervent Travail and Prayer of *Your Friend,*

London, 13.10. *Month*. 1693.

Theodor Eccleſton.

Remember the time Appointed for Meetings to begin.

Gift of Friends' Reference Lib. Lond

inted by *T. Sowle*, at the *Crooked Billet* in *Holy-well-Lane*, *Shoreditch*. 169

3rd. mo. 1922